

Molokai film honored

By Wayne Harada

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"Gift to My Children: A Molokai Family," a documentary on the Joyce Kainoa family of Molokai, has won a national award from the Broadcast Industry Conference in San Francisco.

The program, which originally aired on KHON-TV Channel 2 and since has been issued on a videocassette, won a Broadcast Media Award in the information-documentary division of this year's competition.

"I'm thrilled — and there's still more excitement ahead," says Claudia Chotzen, who produced and directed the program. "The program has been offered to PBS stations across the country through a distributor in Chicago." She feels that the award will be a positive nod for a wider distribution on the Mainland.

The prestigious award recognizes outstanding locally produced programs from across the United States.

"Gift to My Children" explores the Kainoa family's attempt to balance old tradi-



Claudia Chotzen
Producer/director

tions with the contemporary world, and examines the resulting conflicts. It focuses on how the Kainoa family integrates practical knowledge about the environment — the land, the sea and nature in general — an experience that is enlightening, educational and entertaining, combining human terms with ecological awareness.

"Gift to My Children" was part of the 1985 Hawaii International Film Festival. Chotzen previously received awards from the Broadcast Industry Conference in 1984

and 1985 for documentaries she produced for Human Services Television (HSTV) and Oceanic Cable on the Honolulu Wheelchair Marathon and teenage pregnancy in Hawaii.

Calvin Hirai, Channel 2 cameraman, shot and edited the Molokai show. Wally Zimmerman and Al Hoffman were executive producers; Hap Freund and Anna Urrea were assistant producers. Robert Aeolus Myers and Nelson Hiu composed and performed original music."

Chotzen says she's "glad that Joyce Kainoa and her family were willing to trust me to make this documentary. I'm particularly pleased about the impact the program has had in our own community."

Kainoa recently told Chotzen that she has received more than 100 letters from people who have seen the program and were moved to write her.

The program can give mainlanders and other non-residents a keen new perspective on the Hawaiian experience.